

If AT&T is receiving USF support it should be complying with Network Neutrality. Competition mandates on USF recipient telecoms like AT&T which has been trying unsuccessfully to merge with T-Mobile should be put in place.

Here are facts by the way for why the merger should be denied:

The No. 2 and No. 4 wireless carriers announce a \$39 billion merger deal that would create a company with nearly 130 million subscribers, easily leapfrogging Verizon Wireless for the No. 1 spot. If this merger had occurred the mobile wireless market (currently an anti competitive oligopoly) which is already heavily dominated by Verizon Wireless and AT&T would have become a near duopoly leaving only Sprint Nextel a distant third in the national wireless post-paid market and reduced competition in the pre-paid market by depriving pre-paid subscribers the choice of using T-Mobile for pre-paid considering that carrier's expansion into pre-paid services (subscriber gains in pre-paid and expansion into pre-paid market) as its post-paid subscribers have been declining.

None of the facts though support AT&T's claims of the merger's supposed benefits. None of AT&T's corporate propaganda or corporate shills are able to explain away the facts despite all their arguments for the disastrous merger. Once again I applaud the Justice Department and FCC for blocking this merger.

Consumer Reports Survey Lists AT&T As Least Satisfying Wireless Company, T-Mobile Brings Up The Middle

<http://www.tmonews.com/2011/12/consumer-reports-survey-lists-att-as-least-satisfying-wireless-company-t-mobile-brings-up-the-middle/>

Looking for a reason to continue hoping the AT&T deal doesn't go through with T-Mobile? Try a Consumer Reports survey that places AT&T dead last in both postpaid and prepaid categories for customer satisfaction. While Consumer Report surveys aren't always weighed with the utmost of accuracy, the result of the 22 metropolitan areas breakdown didn't result in any cities giving AT&T the top position for wireless satisfaction.

T-Mobile on the other hand took the top spot in Austin, Texas; Boston, Massachusetts and Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota. Verizon was the clear winner in this survey taking the top spot in 12 out of the 22 cities leaving Sprint and U.S. Cellular to duke it out for the other 7 cities. T-Mobile might have taken the third place spot on the postpaid chart but still managed to trounce AT&T along with Sprint, Verizon and a host of regional providers.

While we don't have a copy of the full report on hand, AllThingsD reports that the magazine gave

special mention to T-Mobile's Value Plan offerings which are often difficult to completely grasp, but over time result in savings for T-Mobile customers.

AT&T offered up AllThingsD expressing a concern over the survey and using it as a learning opportunity while reiterating the company's continued efforts to make their service better. AT&T of course added in an extra line to AllThingsD about how customers would benefit if they were allowed to buy T-Mobile yada yada.

While we'll of course evaluate and learn from the Consumer Reports survey, we made significant progress in our network in 2011 including a 25 percent improvement 3G dropped call performance, 48,000 network improvements (more capacity, new cell sites, faster data speeds, and better connections), and many billions of dollars in capital investment to continue to improve our network, the company said in a statement to AllThingsD.

Consumer Reports, AllThingsD

The anti competitive effects on wholesale, resale, mobile virtual network operators like CREDO Mobile and Republic Wireless which depend on backhaul via Sprint's network (CREDO and Sprint oppose AT&T T-Mobile takeover) likelihood of price increases for voice, data and texting needs to all be considered and has been in denying the merger. However, the FCC now needs to tie USF funding requirements to competition which this merger would reduce.

Stop the AT&T T-Mobile Takeover

Investment per subscriber

AT&T Mobility \$81 investment per subscriber

Industry average (excluding AT&T) \$91 investment per subscriber

Other carriers are investing more in their wireless networks than AT&T. AT&T doesn't need T-Mobile to improve its service they need to stop their under-investment. That is they need to invest more in their network infrastructure, to improve network capacity. They are a spectrum hog with more than enough wireless spectrum they just don't invest enough in their own network. I applaud the FCC and Justice Department for blocking this anti competitive merger.

AT&T's "Mobilize Everything" PR and ad campaign launched in March 2011 when they announced earlier this year their T-Mobile USA takeover was a deceptive and secret ploy to actually Monopolize Everything. I'm glad the FCC and Justice Department saw through their deception and have moved to block this anti competitive, job killing merger. We need more competition in the mobile market for

wireless telecommunications not less. We need more choice in mobile broadband providers for smartphone and tablet computer users and to ensure wireless freedom on the wireless web. The FCC should apply the Carterfone ruling to wireless space mandating wholesale open access to help open the market to more wireless competition and mandate a wireless divestiture as I've stated previously in this docket of AT&T and Verizon Communications businesses thus separating their fixed wire-line businesses from their wireless subsidiaries to mandate/promote and improve competition.